



News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
Thunder Basin National Grassland
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>

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Hazard Tree Clearing Beginning along Forest Road 513 and Forest Road 517

(Laramie, WY. - October 16, 2012) – To facilitate safe, efficient removal of dead and dying trees affected by the ongoing bark beetle epidemic, a series of temporary road closures in the Dry Park area of the Laramie Ranger District (LRD) will be implemented this fall and winter. Beginning October 17, work will begin on Forest Road 513 (Engineer's Road) between Forest Road 500 and Dry Park. Following the completion of work on Forest Road 513, a temporary road closure will be in effect on Forest Road 517 from Dry Park east to the National Forest/private land boundary.

The order of these operations and closures are intended to reduce impacts to recreationists. By treating Forest Road 513 first, impacts to Snowmobile Trail B, which is a very popular access route to the southern portion of the LRD, are expected to be minimized or eliminated. Similarly, by deferring treatment of the eastern portion of Forest Road 517, hunters will not be impacted in the Strain Creek and Lake Owen areas during the regular big-game seasons.

Alternate routes are advised when traveling in the Dry Park area. Those routes include: Forest Roads 500, 512, 517, 542, 543 and County Road 47 (Fox Creek Road).

Work will occur Monday through Friday with no operations occurring on weekends as well as the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day holidays. The daily road closure will be in effect from 7 a.m. to approximately 5 p.m. Hazard tree removal work will continue until operations are complete or until approximately Jan. 15, 2013, whichever occurs first.

This is one of many forest management projects taking place across the LRD on the Medicine Bow National Forest in 2012 and 2013. Efforts to widely publicize the work areas and their subsequent effect on public access have been ongoing since this spring.

During the project, log trucks will be hauling along Forest Roads 517, 512 and possibly on the Fox Creek Road. Visitors are advised to watch for new signs and changed conditions while traveling on the forest. Do not enter areas which are posted closed, as they are closed for public safety.

Despite ongoing and extensive hazard tree reduction efforts, forest visitors are responsible for being aware of their surroundings and the risk of falling trees anytime they enter the forest. Trees impacted by beetles appear red or have no needles, but green trees left after treatments are also susceptible to falling due to removal of the trees around them. Remember to look up, look down and look around to avoid setting up camps or parking vehicles under dead trees.

For more information about this or other projects please call the LRD office at 307-745-2300 to inquire about current conditions and to check the status of work in the area of planned visits. Road closures and project activities may also be found on this website, <http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>, or you can follow the MBRTB on Twitter, [@MBRNFsTBNG](https://twitter.com/MBRNFsTBNG).

The Forest Service appreciates the public's patience during this temporary closure. Temporary road closures and detours are a short-term inconvenience needed to provide for long-term public safety.

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